Seeking Data Scientists to Help Us Understand IES Research Investments



Project Title	Seeking Data Scientists to Help Us Understand IES Research Investments
Project Summary	The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) seeks help compiling and doing some exploratory analyses of some data we have and could use people with data science, data mining, or computer science backgrounds.
Country	United States

Project Description

The federal government and others are working to ensure that the public has access to science and research. We here at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the non-partisan research arm of the U.S. Department of Education, could use your help in this mission.

IES funds innovative research and development and wants to ensure that students, families, teachers, and policymakers can find and use the knowledge our grantees and contractors are producing. We need help compiling and doing some exploratory analyses of some data we have and could use people with data science, data mining, or computer science backgrounds.

IES staff have been tagging information about various research projects, but we do not currently have support to use these tags to find trends, possible errors, and other relevant patterns. If we had help with this light data work, we could identify clusters of research projects that could inform education policy or practice or gaps in our data that we could address to be better prepared to answer congressional or public requests. If you have the ability to work with CSV files that do not contain PII, you can put your skills to good use with us.

In collaboration with an IES mentor, interns will review data the mentor provides from the database IES is compiling. This database is currently hosted in SharePoint and leverages a variety of SharePoint lists. Interns will not have access to the IES database or servers, but the mentor will provide offline copies of CSV or Excel files that the intern will be able to use.

Together, the intern and the mentor will identify the IES research questions that the data can address, and the intern will create the necessary files and output for beginning to answer the questions. Interns may also propose additional ways of exploring the data to help IES learn about its research investments.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Coding
Data analysis
Data visualization
Research

Additional Information

Ideal candidates will have an interest in using big data to answer questions that clients (in this case IES) have. They will have strong attention to detail and the ability to work independently. Interns do not need to have extensive experience with education research or theory, but those interested in these areas are encouraged to apply.

There is no particular programming language requirement. All written or verbal communication will occur in English.

Previous interns have used software such as R, Access, and Excel for this work.

Language Requirements

None